

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method comprising:
  - obtaining backup job information from one or more backup applications for a plurality of backup jobs;
  - calculating a required number of scratch media needed for one or more future executions of at least one of the backup jobs using the backup job information; and
  - presenting the required number of scratch media to a user.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the backup job information comprises historical backup size information for at least one of the backup jobs.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the backup job information comprises information for one or more backup devices, each backup device associated with at least one of the backup jobs.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein presenting the required number of scratch media comprises presenting the number of scratch media required for each of the backup devices.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the backup job information comprises information for one or more media pools, each media pool associated with at least one of the backup jobs.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein calculating comprises, for each media pool:
  - determining an existing number of scratch media in the media pool;
  - calculating the number of scratch media needed for the future executions using the media pool; and
  - subtracting the existing number from the required number.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein determining an existing number comprises determining if a protected period for one or more existing data media has expired.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein presenting the required number of scratch media comprises presenting the number of scratch media required for each of the media pools.
9. The method of claim 5, wherein calculating comprises using the media pool information to analyze historical usage of the media pools.
10. The method of claim 5, further comprising presenting a report to the user identifying at least one media pool having a greater amount of scratch media than the required number of scratch media for the at least one media pool.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein calculating the required number of scratch media comprises for at least one of the future executions, dividing an average historical backup size of the backup job by an average capacity of a media type associated with the backup job.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the backup job information comprises information for one or more media pools, each media pool associated with the backup jobs, and calculating the required number of scratch media further

comprises totaling the number of media required for each media pool used by the future executions.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the backup job information comprises information for one or more backup devices associated with the backup jobs, and calculating the required number of scratch media further comprises totaling the number of media required for each backup device used by the future executions.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein calculating comprises calculating the number of scratch media required for the future executions of the backup jobs scheduled within a predetermined period of time.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving from the user a list of one or more media to be used for at least a portion of the required scratch media.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising for each media in the list, determining if the media is a valid scratch media.

17. A system comprising:

an integration agent to receive backup job information for a plurality of backup jobs from one or more backup applications;

a planner to calculate a required number of scratch media needed for one or more future executions of at least one of the backup jobs using the backup job information; and

a user interface to present the required number of scratch media to a user.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the backup job information comprises information for one or more backup devices, each backup device associated with at least one of the backup jobs and said user interface is further to present the required number of scratch media required for each of the backup devices.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the backup job information includes information for one or more media pools, each media pool associated with at least one of the backup jobs and said user interface is further to present the number of scratch media required for each of the media pools.
20. The system of claim 17, wherein the backup job information comprises an average historical backup size for one or more of the backup jobs and said planner uses the average historical backup size to calculate the required number of scratch media.
21. The system of claim 17, wherein said user interface is further to receive a list of one or more media to be used for at least a portion of the required scratch media.
22. The system of claim 21, wherein for each media in the list, said planner is further to determine whether the media is a valid scratch media.
23. At least one machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions, which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform the actions of:
  - obtaining backup job information from one or more backup applications for a plurality of backup jobs;
  - calculating a required number of scratch media needed for one or more future executions of at least one of the backup jobs using the backup job information; and
  - presenting the required number of scratch media to a user.
24. The medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions for presenting the required number of scratch media comprise instructions, which, when executed by the

machine, cause the machine to perform the actions of presenting the number of scratch media required for one or more backup devices, each of the backup devices associated with at least one of the backup jobs.

25. The medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions for presenting the required number of scratch media comprise instructions, which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform the actions of presenting the number of scratch media required for one or more media pools, each media pool associated with at least one of the backup jobs.

26. The medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions for calculating the required number of scratch media comprise instructions, which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform the actions for each backup job, dividing an average historical backup size by an average capacity of a media type associated with the backup job.